

26 JUVENILE RAMBLES.

lands of miles distance from this country. The leaves of this tree are so very large, that the Indians use them to cover their houses; and they also make mats of them. Between the leaves and the top grow several shoots, as long as a man's arm, which being tapped produces a very agreeable liquor, which in the East-Indies they call Toddy, and from this they make arrack.

This tree produces fruit three times a year, and the fruit of it is as big as a man's head; though there is another sort not a quarter so big. There are other nuts, called Cocoa, and from these they make chocolate, of which you are both so fond.

Bless me, what have I here in my pocket? Why, I declare, it is a nutmeg! Well, my dears, this is a nut likewise, which gives such a nice flavour to your puddings and custards. You see it looks something like a walnut, but is much more valuable.

Well,

JUVENILE RAMBLES. 27

Well, I must take this opportunity to explain to you a matter, which not only you young ones, but even many old people, are very much mistaken in. Lady Thrifty was the other day saying, that nutmegs, mace, cinnamon, and cloves, all grew upon one tree; but this is a very great mistake, as I shall now explain to you.

The nutmeg trees grow in the East-Indies, among what are called the Spice Islands. The nutmeg is the fruit of a tree, and resembles a walnut, being covered with an outside shell in the same manner. Round the inside shell, and close to the nutmeg, grows an aromatic substance, and this is what they call Mace; but cinnamon and cloves have nothing to do with the nutmeg tree, as I shall now acquaint you.

Cinnamon, as you know, my dears, is a very nice spice, and is the bark of a tree, growing on the island of Ceylon, in the East-Indies, on which island a nutmeg